

BACKGROUND

“The Watershed Program will use a comprehensive, integrated, basin-wide approach with a goal to improve conditions in the Bay-Delta system. This Watershed Program will emphasize local participation and provide financial and technical assistance for local watershed stewardship, and promote coordination and collaboration among watershed efforts.”

- CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) Record of Decision; August 28, 2000

The foundation of the CALFED Watershed Program is that community-based, locally led watershed management is essential to protect the health and future of the Bay-Delta system and to attain the goals outlined for CALFED. With an objective of ensuring the permanent health and productivity of the Bay-Delta system, The Watershed Program administers a grant program aimed at improving local interest and participation in managing the Bay-Delta system’s natural resources on a watershed scale.



Photo courtesy of the Trinity County Resource Conservation District

The Watershed Program recognizes a logical progression for local watershed management, beginning with building watershed management capacity and evolving to the production of watershed assessments, the development of watershed plans, and eventually the implementation of those plans. The intent of the grant program has been to mirror that progression in watersheds throughout the CALFED solution area.



Photo courtesy of the Sacramento River Watershed Program

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This catalog contains summaries of the most recent 63 projects funded through grants from the Watershed Program during its second and third proposal solicitations. This is the second project catalog developed by the Watershed Program—the first summarized the original 53 grant projects awarded during the first proposal solicitation. The purpose of this catalog is to highlight these locally designed watershed projects and to illustrate their individual contributions to their local communities and toward the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The descriptions also outline the primary benefits and beneficiaries of each project.

Each project described in this document was reviewed for technical merit and its potential to help meet CALFED Program objectives. In addition, an effort was made to select a set of projects that:

- ✿ define and illustrate relationships between watershed processes and the primary goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program;
- ✿ demonstrate the value of watershed management efforts in geographically diverse locations in the CALFED solution area, and
- ✿ demonstrate the value of a community-based approach in addressing a diversity of issues, circumstances, and community characteristics found in different watersheds in the CALFED solution area.

These projects are supported in part with grants of public funds authorized in Proposition 13 and Proposition 50, and are intended to help implement the Watershed Program Plan. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) administers the grant funding on behalf of the Watershed Program for each project presented here. The projects were reviewed and selected to receive grant funding from either of two separate competitive grant cycles conducted by the State Water Board in 2002 and 2004.

The nature of the funding sources and implementation partnerships in the second and third solicitations for proposals has tended to push the Program expenditures toward implementation projects in lieu of, or ahead of, the capacity building, assessment, and planning considered primary for improving sustained, effective, local watershed management. Therefore, the projects highlighted in this catalog have a larger percentage of implementation projects than those in the first catalog.

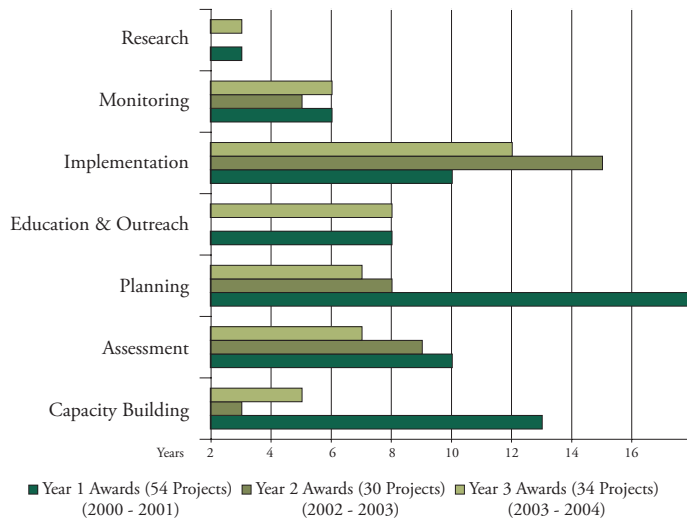


Photo courtesy of Jeff Peters, Jones & Stokes

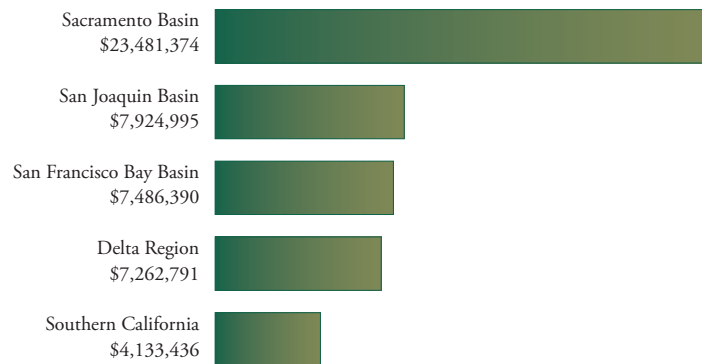
GRANT PROJECT STATISTICS

The charts below show distribution by geographic area and by type of project for the grants awarded by the Watershed Program over the last three grant cycles.

PROJECT TYPE DISTRIBUTION



GRANT DISTRIBUTION 2001-2004



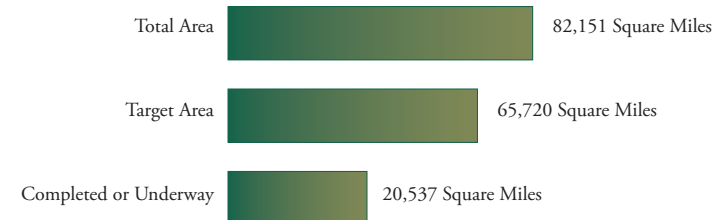
These grant awards show a steady growth in the number of funded projects that directly implement objectives of multiple CALFED elements.

PROJECTS THAT FURTHER MULTIPLE CALFED ELEMENT OBJECTIVES



These projects also are helping the Program move toward its goal of completed baseline assessments for 80–100% of the Bay-Delta watershed.

BAY-DELTA SYSTEM WATERSHED ASSESSMENTS SQUARE MILES



The Program will continue to provide financial and technical support to local communities to expand local capacity for effective watershed management in the Bay-Delta system. As projects continue and additional solicitations are developed, subsequent catalogs will illustrate the work of the Watershed Program's local partners.